upgrading of testing facilities at the Textiles Committee and other Public Textile Laboratories to facilitate quick, affordable and reliable test result to the exporters; and promoting quality consciousness among to promote acceptability of Indian goods abroad.

(c) The State of Gujarat has a prominent position in the country. As far as the Textile Industry in concerned, it can be ranked as No. 3 in terms of the overall turnover in the Textile Industry.

(d) The quantum of production of spun yarn and cloth in the state of Gujarat during 1995-96 is given below :

Item	Production in Gujarat
Spun Yarn (Mn. Kg.)	183.7
Mill Cloth (Mn.sq. mtr.)	451.6

Information on the total cloth produced in Gujarat State is not available.

(e) Steps for promotion of exports is not taken separately for each State. However, in order to boost textile export, the Govt. have been taking a number of steps which include encouraging exporters to participate in Buyer-Seller meets, participation in fairs and exhibitions in major markets; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; releasing advertisements in foreign trade magazines; products development and quality upgradation through appropriate training programmes; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

[English]

Fifth Pay Commission

4257. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high empowered Committee of Secretaries has been appointed to give their recommendations on the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details of members of the above committee;

(c) whether a meeting with the Joint Consultative Machinery was held on March 3, 1997 to seek their views for the implementation of the above report;

(d) if so, the outcome of the said meeting;

(e) the time fixed by the Government to submit the recommendations by the Committee of Secretaries;

(f) whether any proposal for the retirement age benefit is under consideration and that no employee will be discriminated; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) In accordance with the established procedure, an Empowered Committee is constituted to screen the recommendations of the Pay Commission. The Empowered Committee comprises of the following :

1.	Secretary, Deptt. of Expenditure	Chairman
2.	Secretary, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pension	Member
3.	Secretary, Ministry of Defence	"
4.	Secretary, Deptt. of Revenue	"
5.	Secretary, Deptt. of Posts	"
6.	Secretary, Deptt. of Telecom.	"
7.	Secretary, Deptt. of Health	"
8.	Secretary, Deptt. of Sc. & Tech.	"
9.	Member (Staff), Railway Board	"
10.	Dy. Comptroller & Auditor General of India	"
11.	Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs	"

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Staff Side of the National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery have suggested improvements in respect of certain recommendations of the Commission.

(e) The decisions will be taken as soon as feasible.

(f) and (g) The Commission, inter alia, has recommended increase in the age of retirement from 58 years to 60 years, except in respect of those employees who are on extension and the personnel of the Central Police Organisations and the Armed Forces. A decision on this recommendation will be taken alongwith other recommendations.

Assistance to Industries by Financial Institutions

4258. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of assistance sanctioned and released by the Financial and investment institutions to the industries in backward and under developed areas of Assam during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of units apply for these loans every year; and

(c) the details of guidelines adopted for considering the applications ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) As per information provided by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), the details of financial assistance